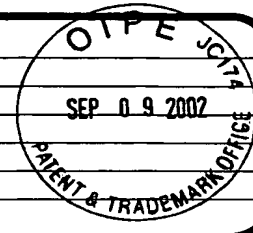


Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO				Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				Application Number	09/912,388
Date Submitted: September 5, 2002				Filing Date	07/26/2001
(use as many sheets as necessary)				First Named Inventor	Takao KAWASAKI
Sheet 1 of 1				Group Art Unit	3748
				Examiner Name	S. O'Brien
				Attorney Docket Number	040679-1315



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
JC	A1	3,714,932		Meacham et al.	02/06/1973	
JC	A2	5,635,634		Reuschenbach et al.	06/03/1997	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
JC	A3	DE	195 30 274	A1	Schmitz et al.	02/20/1997		
JC	A4	DE	3401362	A1	Pischinger	08/09/1984		
JC	A5	DE	198 44 086	A1	Hartke et al.	11/18/1999		
JC	A6	EP	1 104 844	A2	Kawasaki et al.	06/06/2001		
JC	A7	DE	197 53 969	A1	Roth et al.	06/10/1999		

RECEIVED

SEP 16 2002

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶
JC	A8	Patent Abstract of Japan, Vol. 1998, No. 06, 30 April 1998 (1998-04-30) & JP 10 037727 A (FUJI HEAVY IND LTD), 10 February 1998 (1998-02-10) – abstract -	
JC	A9	Patent Abstract of Japan, Vol. 1999, No. 13, 30 November 1999 (1999-11-30) & JP 11 223137 A (NISSAN MOTOR CO LTD), 17 August 1999 (1999-08-17) – abstract -	
JC	A10	Patent Abstract of Japan, Vol. 1997, No. 12, 25 December 1997 (1997-12-25) & JP 09 209895 A (TOYOTA MOTOR CORP), 12 August 1997 (1997-08-12) – abstract -	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	12-6-02
--------------------	--	-----------------	---------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.